

No. 879,804.

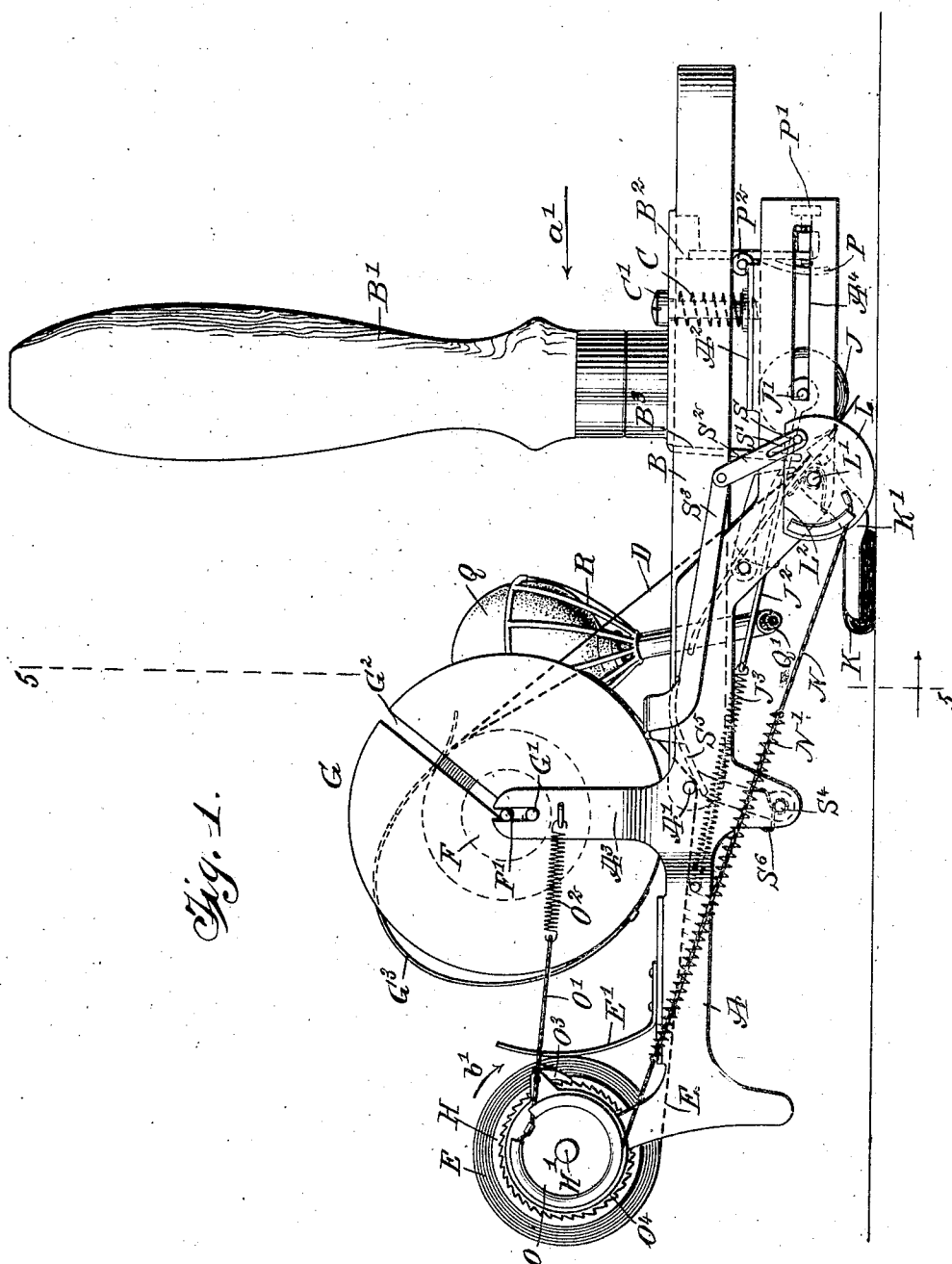
PATENTED FEB. 18, 1908.

H. J. WERTZBERGER. PA.  
STAMP AFFIXING MACHINE.

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APPLICATION FILED JULY 3, 1907.

4 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



**WITNESSES**

L. Empoet Handy  
King Herod?

Rich. Hooker

INVENTOR

*Herman J. Wertzberger*

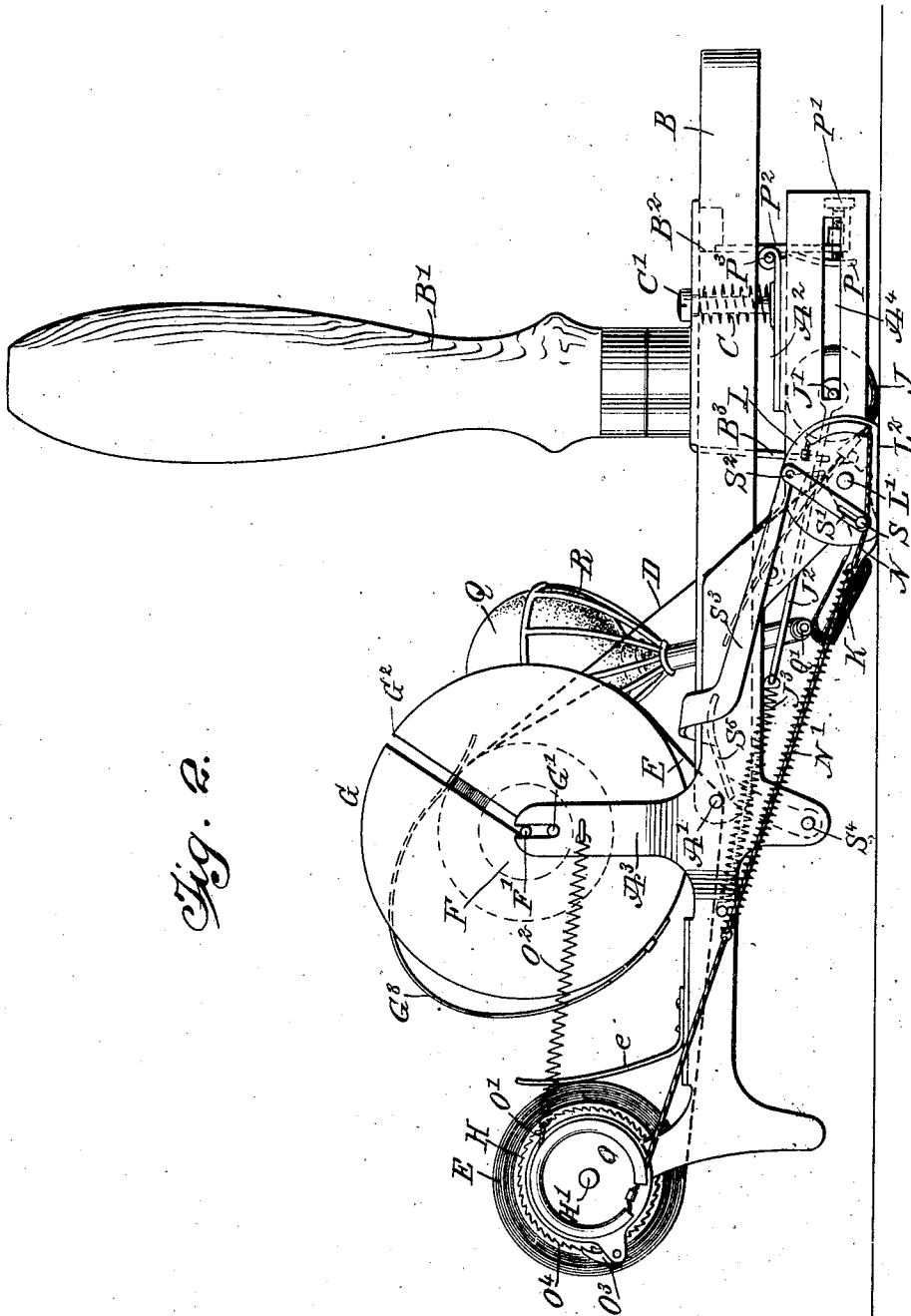
BY *Mumolo*

**ATTORNEYS**

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WITNESSES

*L. G. H. H. H. H.*  
*W. H. H. H. H.*

INVENTOR

*Herman J. Wertzberger*

BY *M. M. Co.*

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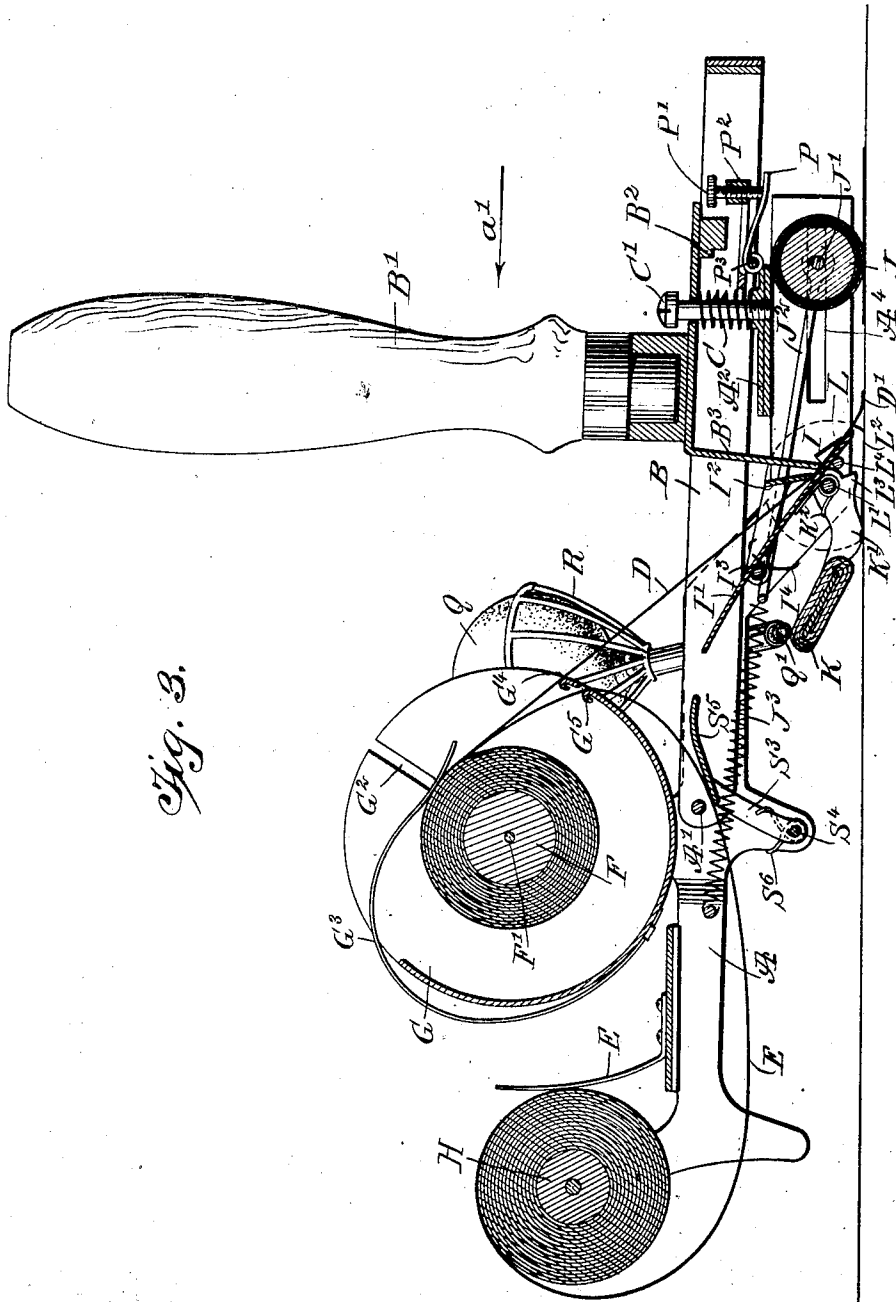


Fig. 3.

WITNESSES

*L. G. ...*  
*W. G. ...*

INVENTOR

*Herman J. Wertzberger*

BY *Mum & Co.*

ATTORNEYS



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HERMAN J. WERTZBERGER, OF HOLYROOD, KANSAS.

## STAMP-AFFIXING MACHINE.

No. 879,804.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 13, 1908.

Application filed July 3, 1907. Serial No. 382,056.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HERMAN J. WERTZBERGER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Holyrood, in the county of Ellsworth and State of Kansas, have invented a new and Improved Stamp-Affixing Machine, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The object of the invention is to provide a new and improved affixing machine for conveniently, quickly and accurately affixing postage stamps and the like to letters and other matter, and arranged to moisten the matter, to feed a stamp from a roll of stamps to the moistened portion, to press the stamp firmly down in position on the moistened part, to cause the stamp to firmly adhere to the matter, to tear the stamp from the roll of stamps and to bring the next following stamp into operative position.

The invention consists of novel features and parts and combinations of the same, which will be more fully described hereinafter and then pointed out in the claims.

A practical embodiment of the invention is represented in the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the improvement; Fig. 2 is a like view of the same showing the parts in a different position; Fig. 3 is a sectional elevation of the same; Fig. 4 is a plan view of the same, and Fig. 5 is a cross section of the same on the line 5-5 of Figs. 1 and 4.

On the main frame A of the machine is pivoted at A' an auxiliary frame B having a handle B' adapted to be taken hold of by the operator for conveniently manipulating the machine, as hereinafter more fully described. A spring C is interposed between the frames A and B, to allow the frame B to yield relative to the main frame A, the said spring C being coiled on a screw or pin C' attached to a cross bar A<sup>2</sup> formed on the rear end of the main frame A, as plainly illustrated in the drawings. The screw C' extends through the top of the frame B to guide the latter in its up and down movement, it being understood that one end of the spring C rests on top of the cross bar A<sup>2</sup> and the other end abuts against the under side of the auxiliary frame B. The head of the screw C' limits the upward movement of

the auxiliary frame B relative to the main frame A.

Gummed stamps D are arranged in a strip wound with a strip of oiled paper E on a spool F contained within a circular casing G removably held by its trunnions G' in bearings A<sup>3</sup> arranged on the main frame A, the said spool F having its shaft F' extending through slots G<sup>2</sup> in the sides of the casing G, to engage the bearings A<sup>3</sup>, thus holding the casing G against rotation (see Fig. 1), at the same time allowing the spool F to rotate to unwind the strip of stamps D, as hereinafter more fully described. A spring G<sup>3</sup> attached to the casing G engages and presses on the stamps D at the spool F, to prevent a too fast unwinding of the strip of stamps from its spool F. The strip of stamps D and the strip of oiled paper E extend through separate outlets or guideways G<sup>4</sup>, G<sup>5</sup> formed in the peripheral face of the casing G, as plainly indicated in Fig. 3, the strip of oiled paper E winding up on a spool H intermittently rotated, as hereinafter more fully described, while the strip of stamps D passes through the mouth I of a feeding device, to be engaged at its outer end by a drawing and pressing roller J employed for drawing the strip of stamps rearward into contact with a moistened portion of the mail matter, and to firmly press the stamp in position on the moistened part. The roller J has its shaft J' journaled in a longitudinally extending guideway A<sup>4</sup> arranged on the main frame A, to allow turning of the roller and bodily movement in a longitudinal direction for the purpose hereinafter more fully described. Normally the roller J is held in a forward position, as shown in Fig. 1, and for this purpose the shaft J' of the roller J is engaged by arms J<sup>2</sup> connected with springs J<sup>3</sup> attached to the main frame A.

The mail matter to receive the postage stamp has a portion moistened by the use of a moistening pad K located in front of the feed device I and the roller J and attached to arms K', mounted to swing loosely on a shaft I' journaled in the main frame A, and carrying at its outer end wheels L each having a flat portion L<sup>2</sup>, as plainly indicated in the drawings. The arms K' of the moistening pad K are pressed on by a spring K<sup>2</sup> to normally hold the pad K in a horizontal lowermost position, as shown in Fig. 1, the downward swinging motion of the pad K being

limited by shoulders  $L^3$  on the arms  $K'$  engaging a stop pin  $L^4$  on the main frame A. Thus the downward swinging motion of the pad K is limited, but the pad K is free to swing upward whenever the arms  $K'$  come in contact with the mail matter at the time the flat portions  $L^2$  of the wheels L move in engagement with the mail matter, as indicated in Figs. 2 and 3. The wheels L are normally held with the flat portions  $L^2$  on top, as indicated in Fig. 1, and for this purpose the wheels are spring-pressed, and one of the wheels is connected by a cord N having a spring  $N'$  with a drum O secured on the shaft  $H'$  of the spool H, on which the strip or sheet of oiled paper E is wound up. The drum O is connected by a cord  $O'$  with a spring  $O^2$  attached to the bearing  $A^3$  (see Fig. 1), so as to hold the drum O normally in the position shown in Fig. 1. Now when the wheels L are turned on moving the machine forward in the direction of the arrow  $a'$ , then the cord N exerts a pull on the drum O, to rotate the same against the tension of the spring  $O^2$  as the cord N unwinds from the drum O and the cord  $O'$  winds up on the said drum. On the drum O is mounted a spring-pressed pawl  $O^3$  engaging a ratchet wheel  $O^4$  attached to the spool H, so that when the drum O is turned by the action of the wheel L and in the direction of the arrow  $b'$ , then the pawl  $O^3$  turns the ratchet wheel  $O^4$  and consequently the spool H, to wind up the sheet or strip of oiled paper E.

The wheels L are caused to rotate from the position shown in Fig. 1 to that shown in Figs. 2 and 3 on pushing the machine forward with the wheels L in contact with the mail matter also engaged by the moistening pad K, for the latter to moisten a portion of the mail matter, and when the flat portions  $L^2$  of the wheels L reach the mail matter then the main frame A and the parts mounted thereon immediately drop down so as to bring the end  $D'$  of the outermost stamp in contact with the moistened portion and with the roller J on top of the end  $D'$ , so that a further forward movement of the apparatus and the desired pressure on the part of the operator having hold of the handle  $B'$ , causes the roller J to firmly press the stamp in contact with the moistened portion, at the same time causing the roller J to move bodily rearward in the guideways  $A^4$  against the tension of the springs  $J^3$ . It will also be noticed that when the main frame drops downward on the flat portions  $L^2$  coming in contact with the mail matter, then the arms  $K'$  of the moistening pad K come in contact with the mail matter, thus swinging the moistening pad K upward and out of engagement with the mail matter, as indicated in Figs. 2 and 3.

The roller J when moving into the rear end position comes in contact with an arm P abutting against a screw  $P'$  mounted to

screw in a lever  $P^2$  fulcrumed at  $P^3$  on the main frame A, and which pivot  $P^3$  is also the pivot for the arm P. The upper end of the lever  $P^2$  is adapted to engage a shoulder  $B^2$  on the auxiliary frame B, so as to normally hold the frames A and B locked apart, but when the roller J moves into a rearward position it imparts a swinging motion to the arm P and the lever  $P^2$ , so that the latter disengages the shoulder  $B^2$  and allows the auxiliary frame B to yield relative to the main frame A by pressure exerted on the part of the operator having hold of the handle  $B'$ . When this takes place an arm  $B^3$  on the auxiliary frame B engages the strip of stamps at the mouth I, so as to hold the strip of stamps in position to cause the roller J to tear off the last stamp on the strip, at the same time the end  $D'$  of the strip is projected a distance beyond the mouth I, so as to be again in position for engagement by the roller J when the latter returns by the action of its spring  $J^3$ . The roller J is engaged at the top by the spring-pressed cross bar  $A^2$  to cause the roller J to move rearward relative to the main frame while drawing the stamp down into the moistened portion of the mail matter. By adjusting the screw  $P'$  in the lever  $P^2$  toward or from the arm P, the auxiliary frame B is tripped sooner or later, to cause the arms  $B^3$  to come sooner or later in contact with the strip  $D'$ , so that the device can be readily adjusted for stamps of different lengths.

It is to be understood that the interposed spring C exerts a pressure on the main frame A by pressing on cross bar  $A^2$ . This pressure in direction of the pressure of the operator's hand must be greater than the tension of the spring  $J^3$  of roller J, otherwise the roller J would return a very short distance toward its normal position at the instant that the pressure of the operator's hand is transferred from the lever  $P^2$  to the arm  $B^3$  of the auxiliary frame B due to the lever  $P^2$  being tripped by roller J.

Tension is given to the strip of stamps D at the mouth I by a bar  $I'$  pressing the strip down on the forward extension plate  $I^2$  of the mouth I, the said bar  $I'$  being fulcrumed at  $I^3$  on the main frame and pressed on by a spring  $I^4$ .

The strip is pressed against sufficiently hard by the bar  $I^2$  to keep the stamp from being moved or displaced by the recoil caused by the return of the roller J to its stationary or normal position over the end of strip D.

The pad K when swinging into an uppermost position comes in contact with the end of a flexible tube  $Q'$ , leading from a bulb Q containing water and held in a suitable support R attached to the main frame A. The bulb Q is provided with a valve  $Q^2$  to normally retain the water in the bulb, but to allow sufficient water to pass out of the

tube Q' when the latter is pressed by the moistening pad K.

In order to prevent too fast unwinding of the strip or sheet of oiled paper E, a clamping device is provided, actuated from one of the wheels L. For this purpose the wheel L is provided with a wrist pin S (see Figs. 1 and 2) extending into an elongated slot S' formed in a link S<sup>2</sup> pivotally connected with a lever S<sup>3</sup> fulcrumed at S<sup>4</sup> on the main frame A and having a clamping plate S<sup>5</sup> adapted to press the strip or sheet of oiled paper E against the pivot pin A' (see Fig. 1). A spring S<sup>6</sup> presses the lever S<sup>3</sup> to normally hold the plate S<sup>5</sup> in clamping position. Now when the machine is moved forward and the wheels L are turned, then a swinging movement is given to the lever S<sup>3</sup> at about the time the flat portions L<sup>2</sup> reach the mail matter so that the plate S<sup>5</sup> releases the strip or sheet of oiled paper E, as indicated in Fig. 3.

The operation is as follows: When the several parts are in the position shown in Fig. 1 and the operator has hold of the handle B', then the moistening pad K is placed upon the portion of the envelop or other matter intended to receive a stamp, and then the operator pushes the machine forward in the direction of the arrow a'. In doing so the pad K moves over a portion of the mail matter and moistens the same, and at the same time the wheels L rotate on account of being in contact with the mail matter. When the flat portions L<sup>2</sup> reach the mail matter the frames A and B drop down so that the roller J presses the end D' of the end stamp upon the moistened portion and a further forward movement of the machine on the part of the operator causes the roller J to rotate or roll rearward owing to the cross bar A' pressing the top of the roller J to hold the latter in contact with the end D' pressed against the mail matter. Now as the machine moves forward the strip of stamps is drawn out of the mouth I of the feed device until the end stamp is over the moistened portion and at this time the roller J trips the locking lever P<sup>2</sup> to unlock the frames A and B and to allow the frame B to swing downward to move its arm B<sup>3</sup> upon the strip of stamps at the feed mouth I, whereby the strip of stamps is held against movement and the end stamp is torn off along the usual row of perforations between adjacent stamps. The roller J has now left the rear end of the cross bar A' and hence is free to revolve in the further forward movement of the machine, to roll over the stamp and press the same in place.

When the operator releases the downward pressure on the handle B' the wheels L and the roller J return to normal position. During the return movement of the wheels L the spool H is tripped to wind up the strip of oiled paper E unwound during the feeding of

the strip of stamps, as above described. When the roller J returns and the frames A and B are pressed apart by the action of the spring C, then the lever P<sup>2</sup> returns to locking position, as shown in Fig. 1, and when the operator lifts the machine off the mail matter the moistening pad K returns to its normal downward horizontal position by the action of its spring K<sup>2</sup>. The machine is now again ready for affixing a stamp on another envelop or the like.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. An affixing machine comprising a frame, a moistener for moistening a portion of the matter to receive the gummed stamp, and a feeding and pressing roller mounted to turn and to slide bodily on the frame, the said roller following the said moistener and engaging the stamp and drawing and pressing it onto the said moistened portion of the matter.

2. An affixing machine comprising a frame, a moistener for moistening a portion of the matter to receive the gummed stamp, a feeding and pressing roller mounted to turn and to slide bodily on the frame, the said roller following the said moistener and engaging the stamp and drawing and pressing it onto the said moistened portion of the matter, and means for holding the next stamp to allow the roller to tear the applied stamp off the next one held against movement.

3. An affixing machine comprising a main frame, a spring-pressed auxiliary frame having a handle and pivoted on the main frame, a spool held on the main frame and containing a roll of gummed stamps, a feed mouth held on the main frame for the passage of the free end of the roll of stamps, a spring-pressed moistening pad mounted to swing on the main frame, a drawing and pressing roller for engaging the end of the stamp projecting rearwardly beyond the said mouth, and wheels journaled on the said main frame and having flat peripheral portions to allow the main frame to drop.

4. An affixing machine comprising a frame having a spring-pressed bar, and a feeding and pressing roller mounted to turn and to move bodily on the said frame, the said spring-pressed bar pressing the said roller during a part of the time the roller is moving bodily to hold the roller against returning, toward normal position.

5. An affixing machine comprising a main frame, a spring-pressed auxiliary frame having a handle and pivoted on the main frame, a spool held on the main frame and containing a roll of gummed stamps, a feed mouth held on the main frame for the passage of the free end of the roll of stamps, a spring-pressed moistening pad mounted to

swing on the main frame, a drawing and pressing roller for engaging the end of the stamp projecting rearwardly beyond the said mouth, the said roller being mounted to slide bodily on the said main frame, and wheels journaled on the said main frame and having flat peripheral portions to allow the main frame to drop.

6. An affixing machine comprising a main frame, a spring-pressed auxiliary frame having a handle and pivoted on the main frame, a spool held on the main frame and containing a roll of gummed stamps, a feed mouth held on the main frame for the passage of the free end of the roll of stamps, a spring-pressed moistening pad mounted to swing on the main frame, a drawing and pressing roller for engaging the end of the stamp projecting rearwardly beyond the said mouth, wheels journaled on the said main frame and having flat peripheral portions to allow the main frame to drop, and a holding arm on the said auxiliary frame and adapted to engage the stamp at the said mouth to hold the said stamp against movement while the affixed stamp is torn off it by the said roller.

7. An affixing machine comprising a main frame, a spring-pressed auxiliary frame having a handle and pivoted on the main frame, a spool held on the main frame and containing a roll of gummed stamps, a feed mouth held on the main frame for the passage of the free end of the roll of stamps, a spring-pressed moistening pad mounted to swing on the main frame, a drawing and pressing roller for engaging the end of the stamp projecting rearwardly beyond the said mouth, the said roller being mounted to slide bodily on the said main frame, wheels journaled on the said main frame and having flat peripheral portions to allow the main frame to drop, a holding arm on the said auxiliary frame and adapted to engage the stamp at the said mouth to hold the said stamp against movement while the affixed stamp is torn off it by the said roller, and a locking device interposed between the said frames and controlled by the said roller.

8. An affixing machine provided with a main frame, an auxiliary frame pivoted on the main frame, a drawing and pressing roller for the stamp and mounted to move bodily on the said main frame, and a locking device interposed between the said frames and controlled by the said roller to unlock the said frames.

9. An affixing machine comprising a frame, a spool for containing a roll of stamps and a sheet of oiled paper rolled up with the roll of stamps, a feed and affixing device for feeding the roll of stamps and affixing the stamps, a winding-up device for the sheet of oiled paper, a clamping device for the sheet of oiled paper to hold the same against move-

ment by the winding up device, and means for moving the clamping device to release the sheet of oiled paper.

10. An affixing machine comprising a frame, a spool for containing a roll of stamps and a sheet of oiled paper rolled up with the roll of stamps, a feed and affixing device for feeding the roll of stamps and affixing the stamps, a winding-up device for the sheet of oiled paper, means for automatically actuating the said winding-up device, means for holding the sheet of oiled paper against movement by said winding up device, and means for moving said holding means to release the said sheet of oiled paper.

11. An affixing machine comprising a frame, a spool for containing a roll of stamps and a sheet of oiled paper rolled up with the roll of stamps, a feed and affixing device for feeding the roll of stamps and affixing the stamps, a winding up device for the sheet of oiled paper, and clamping means for holding the oiled sheet of paper against movement by the winding-up device at the time the roll of stamps is being fed by the feeding device.

12. An affixing machine provided with a casing having spaced outlets at its periphery, a spool held in the said casing for containing a roll of stamps, and a sheet of oiled paper rolled up with the said stamps, the latter being adapted to pass through one of the said outlets and the sheet of oiled paper passing through the other outlet, a winding up device for the sheet of oiled paper, a clamping device for holding the sheet of oiled paper against movement, and means for moving the clamping device to release the said sheet of oiled paper.

13. An affixing machine provided with a casing having spaced outlets at its periphery, a spool held in the said casing for containing a roll of stamps, and a sheet of oiled paper rolled up with the said stamps, a feeding and affixing device for the said roll of stamps, a winding-up device for the said sheet of oiled paper, means for automatically actuating the winding up device, and clamping means for holding the sheet of oiled paper against movement.

14. An affixing machine comprising a frame, a casing carried by the frame and having spaced outlets at its periphery, a spool held in the said casing for containing a roll of stamps and a sheet of oiled paper rolled up with the said stamps, a feeding and affixing device for the said roll of stamps comprising a roller mounted to move bodily on the said frame, a winding-up device for the said sheet of oiled paper, and a moistener for applying moisture to the article to be stamped previous to the feeding and affixing device applying the stamp to the moistened portion.

15. An affixing machine having a main



frame, a moistening pad pivoted thereon, wheels journaled on the said frame and having flat peripheral portions to allow the frame to drop, and means on the pad for engaging the mail matter when the frame drops to cause the pad to swing into an inactive position.

16. An affixing machine having a frame, a feed mouth on the said frame for the passage of the stamps, a roller adjacent to the said feed mouth to engage the end of a stamp, and wheels journaled on the frame and having flat peripheral portions to allow the frame to drop and to bring the end of the stamp onto the article with the roller on top of the end of the stamp.

17. An affixing machine having a frame, a feed mouth on the said frame for the passage of the stamps, a roller adjacent to the said feed mouth to engage the end of a stamp, wheels journaled on the frame and having flat peripheral portions to allow the frame to drop and to bring the end of the stamp onto the article with the roller on top of the end of the stamp, and a longitudinal guideway on the said frame and in which the said roller is mounted to travel bodily.

18. An affixing machine having a frame, a feed mouth on the said frame for the passage of the stamps, a roller adjacent to the said feed mouth to engage the end of a stamp, wheels journaled on the frame and having flat peripheral portions to allow the frame to drop and to bring the end of the stamp onto the article with the roller on top of the end of the stamp, a longitudinal guideway on the said frame and in which the said roller is mounted to travel bodily, and a spring-pressed moistening pad pivoted on the said frame and adapted to swing into an inactive position on the dropping of the frame.

19. An affixing machine having a frame, a feed mouth on the said frame for the passage of the stamps, a roller adjacent to the said feed mouth to engage the end of a stamp, wheels journaled on the frame and having flat peripheral portions to allow the frame to drop and to bring the end of the stamp onto the article with the roller on top of the end of the stamp, a longitudinal guideway on the said frame and in which the said roller is mounted to travel bodily, an auxiliary frame pivoted on the said main frame, a spring interposed between the said frames, and a locking device fulcrumed on the main frame and engaging the said auxiliary frame, the said locking device being controlled by the said roller.

20. An affixing machine having a frame, a feed mouth on the said frame for the passage of the stamps, a roller adjacent to the said feed mouth to engage the end of a stamp, wheels journaled on the frame and having flat peripheral portions to allow the frame to drop and to bring the end of the stamp onto

the article with the roller on top of the end of the stamp, a longitudinal guideway on the said frame and on which the said roller is mounted to travel bodily, a spring-pressed moistening pad pivoted on the said frame and adapted to swing into an inactive position on the dropping of the frame, and a moisture supply bulb having an outlet pipe engaged by the said moistening pad when the latter swings into an inactive position.

21. An affixing machine having a main frame, an auxiliary frame, a spring interposed between the said frames, a feeding and pressing roller journaled in the main frame and mounted to slide bodily therein, the said main frame having a bar pressing the said roller during a part of the time the said roller is moving bodily, to hold the roller against returning toward normal position, a chute on the main frame, an arm on the auxiliary frame for clamping the stamp strip on the said chute, and a locking and tripping device for the said frames and controlled by the said roller.

22. An affixing machine having a main frame, an auxiliary frame, a spring interposed between the said frames, a feeding and pressing roller journaled in the main frame and mounted to slide bodily therein, the said main frame having a bar pressing the said roller during a part of the time the said roller is moving bodily, to hold the roller against returning toward normal position, a chute on the main frame, an arm on the auxiliary frame for clamping the stamp strip on the said chute, a locking and tripping device for the said frames and controlled by the said roller, the said locking and tripping device having a lever fulcrumed on the main frame and adapted to engage the said auxiliary frame, a set screw in the said lever, and a tripping arm fulcrumed in the main frame and engaged by the said set screw, the said arm being normally in the path of the said roller.

23. An affixing machine comprising a frame having a spring pressed bar, a feeding and pressing roller, tension means for holding said roller in its normal or stationary position, the said roller being mounted to turn and also to move bodily on the said frame against the action of its tension means, the said spring pressed bar pressing the said roller during a part of the time the roller is moving bodily, the pressure of the said bar under the action of its spring being greater than that of the tension means of the roller, thereby holding the roller against returning toward normal position.

24. An affixing machine comprising a frame, a spool for containing a roll of stamps and a sheet of oiled paper rolled up with the roll of stamps, a feed and affixing device for feeding the roll of stamps and affixing the stamps, a spool on which the sheet of oiled paper is wound, a spring and connections be-

tween the spring and the spool whereby the tension of the spring turns the spool to wind up the sheet of oiled paper, and clamping means engaging the sheet of oiled paper to hold the same against the action of said spring.

25. An affixing machine comprising a frame, a spool for containing a roll of stamps and a sheet of oiled paper rolled up with the stamps, a feed and affixing device for feeding the roll of stamps and affixing the stamps, a winding up spool for the sheet of oiled paper, a drum on the spool shaft, a spring fixed at one end, a connection between the other end of said spring and the drum for turning the same in one direction, means for turning the spool from the drum to wind up the sheet of oiled paper, means for exerting a pull on the drum to rotate the same against the tension of the said spring, and means for holding the sheet of oiled paper against movement.

26. An affixing machine having a main frame, a moistening pad provided with arms, the said pad being arranged to engage the

mail matter, a shaft journaled in the frame and on which the arms of the pad are mounted to swing loosely, wheels carried by said shaft and having flat peripheral portions to allow the frame to drop, the said arms of the pad being arranged to engage the mail matter when the frame drops and swing the pad into an inactive position.

27. An affixing machine provided with a main frame, an auxiliary frame having a handle, the auxiliary frame being pivoted on the main frame, a spring interposed between the said frames, a drawing and pressing roller for the stamp, the said roller being mounted to move bodily on the said main frame, and a locking device interposed between the said frames and controlled by the said roller.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

HERMAN J. WERTZBERGER.

Witnesses:

F. C. WESELY,  
E. WEAVER.